

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03329 241650Z  
ACTION AF-01

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16
	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01
	SNIS-00	NISC-02	PMB-00	/046W			

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P 241651Z MAR 94  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6047  
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 03329

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/C

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, EAID, BE, RW  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN COOPERATION AID TO RWANDA TO BE ADAPTED

REF: BRUSSELS 2763

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03329 241650Z

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. AS REFTTEL REPORTED, THE GOB'S PROMISE (OR THREAT, DEPENDING ON WHO YOU TALK TO) TO REEVALUATE BELGIAN COOPERATION AID TO RWANDA HAS COME TRUE. THE SECRETARIAT FOR COOPERATION DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 23 IT WOULD ONLY CONTINUE THE FUNDING OF HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS. NEW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN OTHER CATEGORIES WOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN. SOME COOPERANTS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN TEMPORARILY AND OTHERS WOULD BE URGED TO FINISH QUICKLY PROJECTS ALREADY UNDER WAY. SECRETARY DERYCKE, IN HIS STATEMENT, SAID THE GOB'S DECISION WAS PROMPTED BY THE INABILITY TO INSTALL A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN KIGALI AND THE PERSISTENT DIVISIONS AMONG THE POLITICAL

UNCLASSIFIED

FACTIONS. "BELGIAN AID ADAPTATION IS A CLEAR POLITICAL SIGNAL TO KIGALI", DERYCKE NOTED.

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3. RWANDAN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS, FRANCOIS NGARUKIYINTWALI, VEHEMENTLY DENIED THAT BELGIUM HAD ISSUED AN ULTIMATUM TO THE GOR DURING THE CLAES AND DERYCKE VISITS IN FEBRUARY. HE EQUALLY DISMISSED REPORTS THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRISIS LAY EXCLUSIVELY WITH PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA. NGARUKIYINTWALI SAID A LARGE MEASURE OF THE BLAME BELONGED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF AGATHA UWILINGIYIMANA WHICH HAD DONE NOTHING TO ASSURE SECURITY OR ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

4. SECRETARY DERYCKE'S CHEF DE CABINET, SONJA GERLO, BRIEFED POLOFF ON MARCH 24 ABOUT THE CONTROVERSIAL DECISION TO "ADAPT" BELGIAN AID. GERLO SAID PRESS REPORTS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03           BRUSSE 03329 241650Z

HAD SENSATIONALIZED THE IMPACT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT. THE GOB HAD NO INTENTION OF STOPPING ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA. THE GOB WOULD TEMPORARILY WITHDRAW APPROXIMATELY 20 COOPERANTS NOT INVOLVED IN HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS. THIS WITHDRAWAL WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT AS LONG AS THERE WAS NO TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN PLACE. ONCE THE TRANSITIONAL INSTITUTIONS WERE IN PLACE, SHE EXPECTED IMMEDIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NEW GOR TO SET AID PRIORITIES. IN THE INTERIM, PROJECTS IN THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION SECTORS WOULD BE UNAFFECTED, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS AT THE HIHER EDUCATION LEVEL. ASSISTANCE TO THE LAW FACULTY, HOWEVER, WOULD CONTINUE. WORKING ON THE TRAINING OF JURISTS, ETC., WAS TOO IMPORTANT A PROJECT TO ALLOW ITS DISMANTLEMENT OR EVEN TEMPORARY DERAILMENT.

5. GERLO ADMITTED THAT ONE OF THE FACTORS LEADING TO THE GOB'S DECISION WAS THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING INTERLOCUTORS OR GROUPS WITH WHOM TO WORK COOPERATIVELY. THE RWANDA 1993 AID ENVELOPE HAD TOTALLED BF 1.3 BILLION. BELGIUM HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISBURSE ONLY BF 600 MILLION DUE TO LACK OF APPROPRIATE PARTNERS. IN ADDITION, THE GOB SUBSIDIZED NGOS'S AND UNIVERSITY PROJECTS AND PROVIDED EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES. THESE MONIES ALSO HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE GENERAL SCHEME OF COOPERATION AID.

6. DERYCKE HAS ALSO BEEN INFLUENCED BY PRACICAL CONSIDERATIONS. THE BELGIAN AID BUDGET IS A "USE IT OR LOSE IT" BUDGET. GERLO SAID THE SECRETARIAT AND MFA ARE CONVINCED THAT ORGANIZATION OF THE AID BUDGET ALONG REGIONAL LINES WILL RESULT IN GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN

UNCLASSIFIED

ALLOCATING RESOURCES. WITH MONIES NOT EARMARKED FOR A  
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRUSSE 03329 241650Z  
SPECIFIC COUNTRY, THE GOB COULD SHIFT FUNDS WITHIN A  
REGION WITHOUT HAVING TO GO BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR  
APPROVAL EACH TIME. GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBERS OF HUTU AND  
TUTSI REFUGEES IN RWANDA, BURUNDI, TANZANIA, AND UGANDA,  
AN EAST AFRICAN FOCUS IS PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE.

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